

## Section 1:

### #1 Opening paragraph Strengths:

- Strong emotional appeal through personal scenario
- Effective use of rhetorical device to engage readers

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped thesis statement → Your opening lacks a clear roadmap of the main arguments. The statement "it is inarguable that every child must have the opportunity to learn an instrument" would be stronger if it previewed your key points about mental health and cognitive benefits.

Exemplar: "This denial of musical education not only impacts children's emotional wellbeing but also their cognitive development, making it crucial that every child has the opportunity to learn an instrument."

### #2 Second paragraph (mental health benefits) Strengths:

- Well-supported with scientific evidence
- Clear connection between music and emotional regulation

Weaknesses: Limited elaboration → Your paragraph introduces the dopamine concept but doesn't fully explore its implications. The metaphor of "ticking time bomb" could be replaced with more specific examples of how musical expression helps children manage emotions.

Exemplar: "Research shows that playing music triggers dopamine release, helping children process complex emotions through creative expression rather than letting feelings overwhelm them."

### #3 Final paragraph Strengths:

- Attempts to synthesise main arguments
- Links back to key evidence

Weaknesses: Redundant conclusion → Your conclusion largely repeats previous points without offering new insights or a compelling call to action. The phrase "It is therefore important" doesn't provide a strong ending for your persuasive piece.

Exemplar: "Given the clear cognitive and emotional benefits supported by research, we must prioritise making musical education accessible to all children, ensuring every child can unlock their full potential through the transformative power of music."

Actionable Task: Rewrite your conclusion paragraph focusing on synthesising your arguments into a compelling call to action that emphasises the broader societal benefits of universal music education.

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Score: 42/50

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Section 2:

#1 Imagine that you have always yearned to be a musician. It is your dream, your hope, your aspiration. But say that, for some legal or monetary reason, you are denied access to musical instruments, like needles attempting to pop your bubble of hope. This is what is currently facing many children across the world. ~~It is therefore inarguable that every child must have the opportunity to learn an instrument.~~ [Therefore, providing every child the opportunity to learn an instrument is not just beneficial, but essential.]

#2 One reason why every child must have the opportunity to learn an instrument is that learning an instrument is beneficial for mental health; ~~it is~~ [as it provides] a recommended way of expressing strong emotions or feelings in a peaceful, non-violent way. This is supported in a recent 2024 study, where scientists have confirmed that playing music helps your body release the hormone known as dopamine into your bloodstream, which can make you feel happy. If children learn instruments, they can expel their inner feelings effectively, instead of them building up inside their bodies like a ticking time bomb.

Additionally, children that do know how to play an instrument are, on average, more cognitively powered than most other children. Also supported by a recent study, these children are also more successful in life due to various reasons ~~stemmed~~ [stemming] from their musical ability. Furthermore, these children have a higher average IQ than the ordinary human being; the normal person has around 100 I.Q. while those who play music drift towards 110-115 I.Q. This further illustrates how music can help children in their academic abilities.

Some people may argue that making and supplying all of the necessary resources for learning how to play music to every child in the country will take a big toll on the government's budget. This is true, although it is not necessary for *\*every \*child* to receive adequate instruments and training – only the ones that wish for it. Even though some rearrangements of government budget must be done for this to happen, it is still a win-win strategy.

#3 ~~To wrap up~~ [In conclusion], every child must have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument because those who do learn an instrument are, on average, smarter than those who don't, and that learning and playing an instrument is a good way to calm down, relax and release

feelings. As supported by various recent studies, children who play instruments have a higher life satisfaction rating. ~~It is therefore important for children to have this opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument.~~ [Therefore, we must ensure every child has access to musical education, creating a foundation for both personal and academic success.]